

9/04/17 Akema Update, as of 1330:

- After a successful controlled burn of the remaining six trailers yesterday, the local authorities in coordination with the Harris County Health Department and in consultation with EPA, TCEQ, the Harris County Pollution Control, and Arkema, lifted the 1.5-mile radius evacuation order shortly after midnight.
- Arkema is working with the local authorities to complete the re-population of the residents affected by the evacuation order.
- Incident operations are gradually shifting to assessing conditions within the facility to determine if re-entry of repair personnel is safe. One of the priorities is to have temporary cooling capabilities in place within the warehouse storing approximately 750K lbs of ambient temperature organic peroxide. The material has a very high Self-Accelerating Decomposition Temperature (SADT) and does not pose an imminent threat of decomposing but as a precaution and in concurrence with UC the RP is proceeding with a temporary cooling system. At this time the most practical cooling approach is to introduce 4 tons of dry ice to be placed inside the building with the peroxide.
- At 1015 an Arkema and Harris County Fire Marshalls Office assessment team indicated that the building with the high SADT peroxide was safe to enter to introduce the dry ice. In the process the team was able to measure the current temperature inside the bays storing the material and found to be below 60° F, significantly below the SADT of the material of 104° F for the lowest. Dry ice operations should be completed by mid-afternoon.
- EPA will remain at UC for the rest of the period and demob this afternoon.

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